

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03186 100847Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-04 IO-13 /088 W
-----051440 100903Z /14

R 100729Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9374

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

CINCPAC

FBIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CPPCC CLOSING: TENG NEW CHAIRMAN

REF: A) HONG KONG 3167; B) HONG KONG 3127; C) PEKING 637;
D) PEKING 617

SUMMARY. THE CONCLUSION OF THE CPPCC SESSION MARKED A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR TENG HSIAO-PING WITH HIS EMERGENCE AS A "CHAIRMAN" IN HIS OWN RIGHT. UNTIL THE CPPCC BEGINS TO FUNCTION, HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL IMPORTANCE OF THE BODY WILL NOT BE CLEAR DESPITE ITS CHARTER TO "ADVISE" AND "MUTUALLY SUPERVISE" THE PARTY AND STATE AT ALL LEVELS AND TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN UNITED FRONT ACTIVITIES.
END SUMMARY.

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1. AS PROJECTED EARLIER (HONG KONG 2529), TENG HSIAO-PING TOOK ON TOP RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) WITH HIS MARCH 7 ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN. TENG'S DEPUTIES ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ARE VIRTUALLY ALL CLOSE SUPPORTERS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY CADRE REPRESENTATION IN THE CPPCC READS LIKE A

"WHO'S WHO" OF PARTY VETERANS WITH LINKS TO TENG.

2. TENG'S ASCENSION TO THE POST OF CHAIRMAN SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED SINCE IT PUTS HIM ON A SYMBOLIC PAR WITH HUA IN TERMS OF TITLES (CHU HSI). AS THE INHERITOR OF CHOU'S MANTLE IN THIS JOB, HE IS ALSO TAKING ON AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC ROLE FOR THE VETERAN CADRE. ON THE BASIS OF INFLUENCE AND PERSONAL AUTHORITY, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT MAO WAS THE DOMINANT PARTNER IN THE MAO-CHOU LEADERSHIP. BUT NOW, EVEN WITH YEH CHIEN-YING ON HUA'S SIDE IN THE HUA-TENG SUCCESSION TEAM, TENG HAS A SHARE OF POWER AT LEAST EQUAL TO THAT OF THE OTHER TWO.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT ASSESS THE FULL IMPACT OF THE CPPCC'S IMPORTANCE UNTIL IT BEGINS TO FUNCTION, THERE IS IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVISING PARTY AND STATE ORGANS AT ALL LEVELS AND LEADERSHIP IN UNITED FRONT WORK. THE CPPCC HAS IMPORTANT DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DUTIES WHICH CORRESPOND TO RESPONSIBILITIES EXERCISED BY TENG IN THE POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE -- FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION. ON THE FOREIGN POLICY SIDE, PEKING'S EFFORTS TO WOO OVERSEAS CHINESE OPINION ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE PARAMOUNT.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL TAKE ON KEY
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DUTIES FOR THE COORDINATION OF WORK WITH INTELLECTUALS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CHINA. MUCH OF THIS WILL BE GEARED TO CONVINCING THE INTELLECTUALS TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS, A ROLE WHICH WE FEEL IS SIGNIFICANT. PUBLICATION OF A JOINT PEOPLE'S DAILY, RED FLAG AND LIBERATION ARMY DAILY EDITORIAL TO MARK THE CLOSING ALSO APPEARS TO underscore THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CPPCC.

5. WE WOULD EXPECT FROM THE RANKING OF CPPCC LEADERS THAT WEI KUO-CHING WILL TAKE ON THE DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF MANAGING THE CPPCC MUCH AS WE PROJECTED ULANFU WOULD ASSUME THOSE DUTIES FOR THE NPC (HONG KONG 2625). ALFTER LONG PERIODS OF INACTIVITY, YEH CHIN-YING'S BROTHER, YEH TAO-YING, HAS RESURFACED AS A MEMBER OF THE CPPCC STANDING COMMITTEE. THE YOUNGER YEH WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN HONG KONG/MACAO REAL ESTATE IN THE EARLY 1950'S AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE NON-PARTY "PATRIOTIC PERSONAGES" DELEGATION AT THE RECENT CPPCC SESSION.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK03186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780107-0967
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaacspg.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21aeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HONG KONG 3167, 78 HONG KONG 3127, 78 PEKING 637
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3376264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CPPCC CLOSING: TENG NEW CHAIRMAN
TAGS: PINR, PINT, CH, (TENG HSIAO-PING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21aeacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014